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6 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
7 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
8 AT SEATTLE

9 DAWIT GEBREZIABHER,

10 Plaintiff,

11 v.

12 CITY OF SEATTLE, a municipal corporation,  
13 and B.T. ROBERT MAHONEY, in his official  
14 and individual capacities,

15 Defendants.  
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Case No. C19-1141-RSM

ORDER DENYING PLAINTIFF'S  
COUNSEL'S MOTION TO WITHDRAW

17 This matter comes before the Court on Plaintiff's Counsel's Motion to Withdraw. Dkt.  
18 #14. Plaintiff's counsel cites as the basis of their motion, "[C]ommunications have broken down  
19 between attorneys and their client such that attorneys can no longer effectively litigate on behalf  
20 of the client." *Id.* at 1. Defendants do not oppose withdrawal but request that Plaintiff's counsel  
21 be required to provide complete contact information for (1) Plaintiff and (2) Plaintiff's fact  
22 witnesses. Dkt. #15 at 1.  
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24 Under this District's local rules, courts ordinarily permit an attorney to withdraw until  
25 sixty days before the discovery cut-off in a civil case. Local Rules W.D. Wash. LCR 83.2(b).  
26 LCR 83.2(b) also provides that if a withdrawal will leave the party unrepresented, the motion to  
27 withdraw "must include the party's address *and* telephone number." *Id.* (emphasis added). Here,  
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1 both counsel of record for Plaintiff moved to withdraw more than sixty days before the discovery  
2 deadline. *See* Dkt. #12. However, it appears that they have provided Plaintiff's mailing address  
3 but not his telephone number. *See* Dkt. #14 at 2. Pursuant to LCR 83.2(b), withdrawal of  
4 Plaintiff's counsel is contingent on counsel providing Mr. Gebreziabher's full contact  
5 information. For that reason, the Court cannot grant Plaintiff's counsel's motion until such  
6 information is provided.  
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8       Regarding contact information for Plaintiff's fact witnesses, Defendants are correct that  
9 the discovery rules require Plaintiff to disclose the names and, if known, the addresses and  
10 telephone numbers for all individuals the party may use to support his claims or defenses. Fed.  
11 R. Civ. P. 26(a)(1)(A)(i). Plaintiff was required to provide this information without awaiting a  
12 discovery request from Defendants. *See id.* While Defendant's request is properly brought as a  
13 discovery motion, Plaintiff's counsel has not filed a reply to explain why such a request is  
14 unreasonable or impractical prior to withdrawal. The unique circumstances of this case—  
15 specifically, counsel's request to withdraw because of communication issues with their client—  
16 favor resolving this issue prior to withdrawal to avoid further delay. Accordingly, the Court will  
17 also require Plaintiff's counsel to provide the contact information of Plaintiff's fact witnesses to  
18 the extent such information is known to them.  
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21       IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Plaintiff's Counsel's Motion to Withdraw, Dkt. #14, is  
22 DENIED. Counsel shall provide complete contact information, including address and telephone  
23 number, for Plaintiff and, to the extent known to them, for Plaintiff's percipient fact witnesses,  
24 before withdrawing from this matter. Upon Defendants' receipt of this information, parties shall  
25 file a joint stipulated motion for withdrawal of Plaintiff's counsel for immediate entry by the Court  
26 that includes Mr. Gebreziabher's complete and current contact information.  
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1 DATED this 24 day of February, 2020.

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4 RICARDO S. MARTINEZ  
5 CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE  
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